
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Free-Response Question 3

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
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Question 3: Comparative Analysis**5 points****(A)** Define economic liberalization.**1 point****Acceptable definitions include:**

- The privatization of nationalized or government-owned industries
- Policies that reduce the government's role in the economy
- Policies that favor the free market
- The reduction of subsidies, tariffs, and other trade barriers
- Opening the economy to foreign direct investment (FDI)

(B) Describe an economic liberalization policy in two different AP Comparative Government and Politics course countries.**2 points****Acceptable descriptions include the following (max one point per country):****China**

- Creating special economic zones
- Organizing the household responsibility system
- Encouraging foreign direct investment

Iran

- Reducing fuel subsidies
- Expanding trade with countries who do not have sanctions on Iran

Mexico

- Privatizing nationalized industries
- Partially privatizing Pemex
- Signing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA)

Nigeria

- Joining Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) or African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- Reducing fuel subsidies
- Empowering the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to collaborate with foreign companies in joint ventures to extract and produce oil

Russia

- Privatizing nationalized industries

United Kingdom

- Privatizing nationalized industries
- Reducing regulations on business
- Creating policies to make the National Health Service (NHS) more efficient

Scoring Notes:

- Joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) is an acceptable response for China, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the UK.
- Joining BRICS is an acceptable response for China, Iran, and Russia.

- (C)** Explain how the impact of economic liberalization has led to the emergence of social movements in each of the two AP Comparative Government and Politics course countries described in part B. **2 points**

Acceptable explanations include the following (max one point per country):

China

- Economic liberalization has caused environmental degradation, which has led to movements and protests.
- Economic liberalization has led to protests for more political freedoms.

Iran

- Economic liberalization has led to protests against fuel subsidy reductions.
- Economic liberalization and growing inequality in wealth led to strikes for better working conditions and higher wages.

Mexico

- Economic liberalization and growing socioeconomic inequality have led to uprisings (Zapatista rebellion).
- Economic liberalization and the privatization of the oil industry led to protests.
- Economic liberalization and growing inequality in wealth led to strikes for better working conditions and higher wages.

Nigeria

- Economic liberalization and unjust methods of oil extraction have led to protests and the development of environmental movements (MEND / MOSOP).
- The presence of foreign-owned economic interests has motivated protests from groups focused on preserving Nigerian culture and/or religious values.

Russia

- Economic liberalization has led to protests against inequality and low standards of living.

United Kingdom

- Economic liberalization has led to environmental movements and protests.
- Economic liberalization has led to anti-globalization protests.
- Economic liberalization has led to labor union activism and strikes.

Total for question 3 5 points

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

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Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- A) Economic Liberalization is ~~where~~ the process of which government loosen its control over the economy such as reducing ~~tax~~ tariffs as well as domestic subsidies and support in order to unleash the power and efficiencies of the market, attract foreign investments and balance budget (reduce deficit spending).
- B) Economic Liberalization policies are evident in both Mexico and the UK. In Mexico an landmark of its economic liberalization policy is the signing of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), this treaty allows the free flow of goods and services across Mexico, US, and Canada which allows the growth and expansion of ~~Magaladonas~~ Maquiladoras in Northern Mexico and Foreign Investment. Another example could be seen in UK, Under Margaret Thatcher, she promoted and employed a lot of policy measures to reduce tariffs and deficit, as well as cut domestic spending, effectively ending the "Welfare State" given by the Labor Party for a long time.
- C) There are cost of implementing economic liberalization policies and fully embrace free trade and globalization. In Mexico, the signing of NAFTA led to an influx of foreign goods and capital, due to the cost efficiency and comparative advantage of those products (Mainly agricultural), they will harm the domestic production. Southern Mexico is disproportionately impacted and hurt due to globalization, the loss of employment among other ethnic and socioeconomic changes, which existed for centuries gave rise to the Zapatista Movement, causing insurrection and violence in the ~~state~~ of Mexico.

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Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

C-Continued) There are social movement in the UK as well after Margaret Thatcher began her policy of Economic Liberalization, the most notable is the Workers' strike, especially the Miners Strike due to a lack of welfare provided by the government - They were ultimately put down by the government by the impact is lasting.

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Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

☐☐☒☐

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A) Economic liberalization is the process in which ~~less~~ there is less and less Government intervention and ownerships in the markets and economy.

B) Mexico's Nafta or North American Free Trade Agreement ~~and~~ allows free trade between Canada, U.S, and Mexico. And the second ~~policy~~ policy for Economic liberalization is the UK ~~has~~ Brexit which saw the UK leave the European union which previously ~~had~~ tied the british pound to the Euro.

C) Mexico's NAFTA has allowed imports in Mexico to increase because of the lack of tariffs between countries, however, because local business now compete against more Foreign companies it has become harder for local business to operate causing a social movement of increased income inequality. Because of the UK's decision to leave the European Union, the UK no longer is required to abide by the EU's immigration laws creating a social movement of Anti-Immigration sentiment.

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Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A) Economic liberalization refers to the privatization of previously state-owned corporations.

B) United Kingdom - Margaret Thatcher implemented economic liberalization policies, when state-owned operations were not running efficiently or profitably because of the lack of competition. She was referred to as the Iron-Woman, and she had lots of support as the policies were such success. She sold off many state-owned ^{industries} ~~corporations~~ to private corporations.

Russia - The system of nomenklatura in Russia refers to favors given to powerful people/oligarchs by the president. Some of these favors included previously state-owned corporations being gifted.

C) In the UK, Thatcher helped create Thatcherism, a movement in favor of her policies. The opposing social movement to her was by Tony Blair who held more liberal views and opposed such privatization. In Russia it is difficult to know opposition to Putin and his oligarchs due to the limited media and speech in the country. However, many citizens live in poverty and oppose the extreme wealth of the oligarchs from economic liberalization.

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Question 3

Comparative Analysis

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the concept of economic liberalization and the role of economic liberalization in the required course countries. This included assessing their ability to define economic liberalization, describe policies implemented as part of economic liberalization programs in two course countries, and explain the relationship between economic liberalization policies and the emergence of social movements in the same two course countries. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory.

Sample: 3A

Score: 5

(A) The response earned 1 point for correctly defining economic liberalization as “the process of which government loosen its control over the economy.”

(B) The response earned 2 points for describing an economic liberalization policy in two different AP Comparative Government and Politics course countries. The response earned 1 point for Mexico for describing an economic liberalization policy in Mexico by stating, “signing of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement.” The response earned 1 point for describing an economic liberalization policy in the United Kingdom by stating, “promoted and enforced ... measures to reduce tariffs and deficit, as well as cut domestic spending, effectively ending the “Welfare State”.”

(C) The response earned 2 points for correctly explaining how the impact of economic liberalization has led to the emergence of social movements. The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining how the impact of economic liberalization has led to the emergence of social movements in Mexico: “the signing of NAFTA led to the influx of foreign goods and capital ... Southern Mexico is disproportionately impacted ... the loss of employment among the ethnic and socioeconomic cleavages), which existed for centuries gave rise to the Zapatista Movement, causing insecurities and violence in Mexico.” The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining how the impact of economic liberalization has led to the emergence of social movements in the United Kingdom: “the most notable is... the Miner’s Strike due to a lack of welfare provided by the government.”

Sample: 3B

Score: 3

(A) The response earned 1 point for correctly defining economic liberalization as “the process in which there is less and less government intervention and ownerships in the markets and economy.”

(B) The response earned 1 point for Mexico for correctly describing an economic liberalization policy as “Mexico’s Nafta ... allows free trade between Canada, U.S, and Mexico.” The response did not earn a point for the United Kingdom. It does not describe an economic liberalization policy in the UK.

Question 3 (continued)

The response states, “the UK Brexit which saw the UK leave the European union which previously tied the british pound to the Euro.” To have earned the point, the response needed to describe how Brexit is an economic liberalization policy.

(C) The response earned 1 point for Mexico by explaining how the impact of economic liberalization has led to the emergence of social movements by stating, “NAFTA has allowed imports in Mexico to increase ... because local businesses now compete against more foreign companies, it has become harder for local businesses to operate causing a social movement of increased income inequality.” The response did not earn a point for the United Kingdom. The response uses Brexit as a cause for a social movement without explaining how that action was an example of economic liberalization.

Sample: 3C

Score: 2

(A) The response earned 1 point for correctly defining economic liberalization as “the privatization of previously state-owned corporations.”

(B) The response earned 1 point for the United Kingdom for correctly describing an economic liberalization policy in the UK by stating, “When state-owned operations were not running efficiently or profitably because of the lack of competition ... [Margaret Thatcher] sold off many state-owned industries to private corporations.” The response did not earn a point for Russia because “the system of nomenklatura” is not an economic liberalization policy.

(C) The response did not earn a point for the United Kingdom. It does not correctly identify a movement or explain how the impact of economic liberalization has led to the emergence of a social movement in the UK. The response refers to political party ideologies, not social movements: “In the UK, Thatcher helped create Thatcherism, a movement in favor of her policies. The opposing social movement to her was by Tony Blair who help more liberal views and opposed such privatization.” The response did not earn a point for Russia because the discussion of opposition to Putin is not relevant to the prompt.